LIBRARY

HEALTH
E 29 AUG 51
C.R. 51

KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1950

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

Lugger Bros., Printers, Kingsbridge.

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL,

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246-47.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2004.

CLERK TO M.O.H.

Miss J. Palk.
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2004.

SANITARY INSPECTORS,

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.
Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246-47.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29534185

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1950.

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. W. C. Smales, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health : Dr. W. H. Cowper, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector : Mr. N. Harris, A.I.A.S., C.R.S.I.

Second Sanitary Inspector : Mr. D. J. Cole, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1950.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,510.

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1950, according to the Rate Book—3,757.

Number of Unoccupied Houses—41.

Rateable Value—£62,831.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£259. 4s. 10d. £260 (approx.

The Area is mainly an agricultural one, although on the coast-line many of the inhabitants are employed in sea-faring pursuits.

There is an annual influx of visitors during the holiday season over the whole of the district, to which they are attracted by the favourable climate and the beauty of the surroundings.

The conditions of employment and environs are conducive to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

	Total	Males.	Females.	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
Legitimate	168	93	75	15.29
Illegitimate	8	5	3	
	176	98	78	

				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
STILL BIRTHS :	2	2	—	11.23

				Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population.
DEATHS :	158	90	68	13.72

Deaths as recorded under heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
No. 30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—		
All infants per 1,000 live births		22.72
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		22.72
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—		
All infants per 1,000 live births		11.36
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		11.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births		Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH :

		Males.	Females
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	—
2.	Other form of Tuberculosis	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	5	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung and bronchus	1	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the Nervous system	12	17
18.	Coronary Disease, angina	6	3
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	20	14
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	4	1
22.	Influenza	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	4	2
24.	Bronchitis	2	—
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory system	—	—
26.	Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	—	1
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	3	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	9
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
34.	All other Accidents	2	2
35.	Suicide	2	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
		90	68

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1950.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	18	3	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	10	—	—
Measles	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis			
Paralytic	1	1	—
Non-Paralytic	3	3	—
Encephalitis	1	1	—
TOTALS	36	8	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Urban District, Salcombe Urban District, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority, and Medical Officer to the South Devon Water Board.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One whole time Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

One whole time Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The Public Health Laboratory Service provide a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc. I am grateful for their assistance and willing co-operation at all times.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN.—Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is available, free of cost, through the general practitioner service, and stocks are kept at local hospitals.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.—District Nurses and Midwives (Devon County Council). There are seven District Nurses/Midwives working in the area, including one County Staff Sister in charge of the group. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officers. All Nurses in the area are qualified to administer analgesics.

MIDWIVES.—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There are six practising midwives in the District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—There is a centre in Kingsbridge, which is open on Wednesday afternoons.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT.—At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner at Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as In-patients at Exeter and Ivybridge; and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge, and the South-West Clinic which deals with this district as well, is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides beds for 16 patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding districts :

Men's Ward	.....	.....	6 beds
Women's Ward		.....	6 beds
Children's Cots	.....	.....	2
Private Wards	.....	.....	2 (one bed each)

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES AND ACCIDENTS.—The Devon County Council Ambulance Service provide transport for non-infectious cases and accidents.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Age Periods.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	5	4	1	—	1	—	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47.

REMOVAL OF PERSONS NEEDING CARE AND ATTENTION.

During the year, application (which was granted) was made to the Court under this Section in one instance.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

SCHOOLS.—Inspections of the 19 Elementary Schools in the District are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and by the Medical Officer of Health in cases needing further attention.

During the year 31 notices were received referring to 94 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows :

Measles	6
Scarlet Fever	3
Whooping Cough	9
Chicken-pox	75
	94

WATER SUPPLY.

The new South Devon Water Board replaced the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board in October. The new Board took over all the Public Water Supplies in the District, but maintenance has been delegated to the Rural District Council as a temporary measure. The Eastern pipe line has made good progress and it is expected that some of the unsatisfactory supplies in the eastern parishes will be replaced by the Moorland Supply during the coming year. Frequent anaylses, both chemical and bacteriological are made of the moorland water, the raw water is also regularly examined. Tests for plumbo-solvency are also carried out at regular intervals.

Water Supplies to the various parishes are as follows :—

Aveton Gifford. Moorland Supply. There are four standpipes in the village.

Bigbury and St. Ann's Chapel. Moorland Supply.

Bigbury-on-Sea. Moorland Supply.

Blackawton. The village is supplied from a local spring and a number of houses have their own private wells. The Public Supply is most unsatisfactory and the wells are open to suspicion. The Moorland Supply will be taken to this village at an early date.

Buckland-tout-Saints including Goveton and Ledstone. Moorland Supply.

East and West Charleton. Water is derived from local springs which are unsatisfactory in quantity. Schemes are under consideration to supply these villages from the Moorland Supply.

Chivelstone—East Prawle. This village is supplied by the Moorland Scheme. A tender has been accepted to lay a 3in. main through the village and also to build a reservoir and lay a 3in. main to houses on the outskirts which are at present being supplied by a local spring. This spring is unsatisfactory in quality and quantity.

Churchstow. Moorland Supply.

East Allington. Supplied from local springs which are pumped to high level reservoirs. The capacity of the reservoirs has been increased in order to give more storage. The springs are satisfactory in quality and quantity.

East Portlemouth. This village is supplied by a private supply which is most unsatisfactory. A scheme is in hand to lay on a supply from the Moorland source.

Kellaton. Supplied from a local spring which is unsatisfactory. A scheme to lay on the Moorland Supply is in hand.

Kingston. Moorland Supply.

MALBOROUGH. Moorland Supply.

MODBURY. Moorland Supply. There are eight standpipes in the town.

RINGMORE AND CHALLABOROUGH. Moorland Supply.

SHERFORD. Moorland Supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

SLAPTON. Moorland Supply. The pipes in this village are small and badly corroded. Arrangements are being made to lay a new 3in. main through the village.

SOUTH HUISH, GALMPTON, INNER AND OUTER HOPE. Supplied from private sources which are being chlorinated.

SOUTH MILTON. Moorland Supply.

SOUTH POOL. Moorland Supply.

STOKE FLEMING. This village is supplied from a well, the water being pumped to a reservoir by means of petrol and electric pumps.

Arrangements are being made to dispense with the local supply and link up the existing main with the Moorland Supply.

STOKENHAM, CHILLINGTON AND TORCROSS. Moorland Supply.

STRETE. This village is supplied from three local wells which are inadequate to meet the demands. Arrangements are in hand to supply from the Moorland Supply. Carting of water has been necessary during the summer months.

During the year 97 properties were connected to the Public Water Supplies, a summary of which is given hereunder :—AVETON GIFFORD, 3 ; BIGBURY, 18 ; BUCKLAND-TOUT-SAINTS, 5 ; CHURCHSTOW, 7 ; KINGSTON, 7 ; LODDISWELL, 3 ; MALBOROUGH, 7 ; MODBURY, 7 ; RINGMORE, 5 ; SHERFORD, 1 ; SLAPTON, 4 ; SOUTH MILTON, 1 ; STOKE FLEMING, 1 ; STOKENHAM, 11 ; THURLESTONE, 7, and WEST ALVINGTON, 10.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

EAST ALLINGTON. A Public Inquiry was held during the year on a scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the provision of an adequate system of sewage disposal and treatment for this village.

LODDISWELL. Thirty yards of sewer in this village has had to be relaid owing to defective pipes.

SOUTH MILTON. A Public Inquiry was held during the year on a scheme for the provision of an adequate sewage system for this village.

HOUSING.

PRE-WAR HOUSING. The Council erected 69 dwellings prior to the war in 1939, and their distribution is as follows :—

Parish.	Name of Site.	Number of Houses.
Bigbury	Park Cottages	4
Blackawton	Park Lane	4
Kingston	Park View, Terrace	6
Loddiswell	New Road	6
Malborough	Moor View	4
Modbury	Traine Villas	6
South Huish (Hope Cove)	Meadow View	4
South Milton	Middle Park	6
Stoke Fleming	Venn	2
Stoke Fleming	Bailey's Meadow	2
Stokenham	Holbrook Terrace	6
Stokenham (Beesands)	Council Houses	6
Strete	Severns Cottages	4
Thurlestone	Sea View Terrace	9
	Total Houses	69

POST-WAR HOUSING. Since the war the Council have erected the following new dwellings :—

Parish.	Name of Site.	Number of Houses.
Aveton Gifford	Icy Park	6 temporary
Blackawton	Main Street	2
Buckland-tout-Saints (Goveton)	Council Houses	4
Chivelstone (E. Prawle)	Higher Park	6
Churchstow	Woodlands	8
Kingston	Yellands Park	8
Loddiswell	Ashwood Park	10
Loddiswell	Oakwood Park	4 temporary
Malborough	Jubilee Road	18
Malborough	Moorside	3 temporary
Modbury	Champernowne	26
Modbury	Traine Villas	6
Ringmore	Crossways	8
South Milton	Sunnyside	8
South Pool	Creek End	2
Stokenham (Chillington)	Meadowside	8
Stokenham (Chillington)	Meadowside	6 temporary

POST-WAR HOUSING—*continued.*

Thurlestone	Island View	7	temporary
Thurlestone	Parkfield	10	
Thurlestone (W. Buckland)	Valleyside	6	
West Alvington	Townsend Road	8	
West Alvington	Townsend Road	4	temporary
	TOTAL HOUSES	170	

HOUSING, 1951. The following number of houses are under construction or contracts let, a certain number have been completed and occupied :—

Parish.	Name of Site.	Number of Houses.
Aveton Gifford	Icy Park	12
Kingston	Yellands Park	4
Loddiswell	Ashwood Park	20
Malborough	Jubilee Road	10
Sherford	Council Houses	6
South Pool	Creek End	4
	TOTAL HOUSES	56

Further contracts for dwellings are in course of preparation :

Churchstow	4
East Portlemouth	8
Modbury	4
Total houses	16

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

COMPLAINTS.—34 complaints were received and dealt with.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.—71 inspections have been made to shops, ice-cream vendors, bakehouses and butchers' shops.

FUMIGATIONS.—32 premises were disinfected due to the occurrence of infectious disease and a further four premises were found to be verminous and were fumigated.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.—27 inspections were made of various sites in the area. During the year 17 applications were received. 16 licences were granted, 1 refused.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

ICE-CREAM.—18 premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale or manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice-cream. Twenty-seven samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results showed that all the samples were satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.—The District's fresh meat supply is allocated from the Dartmouth Abattoir. Inspection is carried out by that Authority's Sanitary Inspector, but he is relieved by this Council's Inspector for leave periods and conferences, etc. Shops in the District are visited regularly and unsound food condemned during the year was as follows:

Meat (Home killed), 24lbs.
Meat (Imported and Canned), 261-lbs.
Other Foods, 267-lbs.
Total, 4-cwt. 3-qrs. 20-lbs.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. (1)	No. in Register. (3)	Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosec'ed. (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	7		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	25		
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—		
TOTAL	37	32		

RODENT CONTROL.

One full time rodent operator is employed by the Council. Particular attention is paid to the Council's refuse tips and sewage works. A free service is provided for private properties.

There were 123 complaints received during the year and work done was as follows :

Premises inspected—1080.
No. of premises treated—269.
No. of rats picked up—1173.
Estimated number of Rats destroyed according to poison take—6,000.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council have five refuse tips throughout the District. These tips are inspected regularly, and during summer months are treated for the control of flies, etc. Negotiations are still in progress for the purchase of another site in the S.E. area of the district.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1951.